

Senate Resolution 1082

By: Senators Miles of the 43rd, Brown of the 26th, Pearson of the 51st, Shafer of the 48th,
Thomas of the 2nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Dedicating the Coretta Scott King Memorial Park on the Oconee River near Irwinton; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King was born in Heiberger, Alabama, in 1927 to Obadiah and
4 Bernice McMurry Scott and grew up in Perry County, Alabama; and

5 WHEREAS, she excelled in her studies in school, particularly in music, and was
6 valedictorian of her class at Lincoln High School in 1945; and

7 WHEREAS, she attended Antioch College on a scholarship and received her Bachelor of
8 Arts degree in music and education, winning a scholarship to study concert singing at the
9 New England Conservatory of Music; and

10 WHEREAS, while at Antioch College, she joined the Antioch chapter of the NAACP and
11 the college's Race Relations and Civil Liberties Committees and began an active interest in
12 the civil rights movement, which was in its early stages; and

13 WHEREAS, while at the New England Conservatory of Music, she met a young theology
14 student, Martin Luther King, Jr., whom she married in 1953; and

15 WHEREAS, after moving to Montgomery, Alabama, where her husband had accepted the
16 pastorate of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, she became deeply involved in the civil
17 rights movement; and

18 WHEREAS, after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus for a white passenger, Dr.
19 King, with the assistance and support of Mrs. King, organized and led a boycott of the city's
20 buses, which drew the attention of the world to the injustices of racial segregation; and

1 WHEREAS, while her husband led marches in city after city to protest injustice and
2 discrimination, Coretta Scott King did her part in the civil rights movement by combining
3 her talents in music with her organizational abilities to produce a series of critically
4 acclaimed Freedom Concerts, combining poetry, narration, and music to tell the story of the
5 civil rights movement, raise funds for the Southern Christian Leadership Council, and inspire
6 citizens to remove the laws requiring racial segregation; and

7 WHEREAS, she was honored by being the first woman to deliver the Class Day address at
8 Harvard University and the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul's Cathedral
9 in London; and

10 WHEREAS, after the death of her husband, she founded and became the first president and
11 chief executive officer of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change,
12 Inc., dedicated to keeping husband's dream and purpose alive; and

13 WHEREAS, she traveled throughout the world for the causes of justice and human rights and
14 served as an inspiration for all the peoples of the nations of the world to seek freedom; and

15 WHEREAS, she devoted her life to fulfilling her husband's commitment to seek peace and
16 justice through nonviolent action, to advocating for social change across the nation and
17 throughout the world, to protecting the environment; to promoting economic improvement
18 and development for all people, and to maintaining the enduring legacy of her husband's
19 dreams; and

20 WHEREAS, on January 30, 2006, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest and most
21 distinguished citizens in the passing of Coretta Scott King; and

22 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of this monumental stateswoman whose
23 steadfast leadership and great personal strength guided the citizens of this state through trying
24 times with great dignity and moral integrity; and

25 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia recently acquired approximately 537 acres of parkland on
26 the Oconee River near Irwinton, an area which is generally known as Ball's Ferry; and

1 WHEREAS, this area is a part of the Altamaha River watershed that drains one-quarter of
2 the state and is the home to one of only two populations worldwide of the endangered Robust
3 Redhorse fish and at least two other endangered species; and

4 WHEREAS, this site is located on the fall line which contains unusual geology, plants, and
5 animals; and

6 WHEREAS, this area is a region rich in history, containing Indian trails, mounds, and rare
7 intact Indian fish traps. Ball's Ferry was founded in the early 1800s by a Revolutionary War
8 veteran to provide transportation across the Oconee River and was the site of the first bridge
9 to provide regional automobile access from Macon to Savannah; and

10 WHEREAS, Ball's Ferry has been designated as a site on the March to the Sea Heritage Trail
11 where the Union troops under Sherman skirmished with Confederate troops for three days
12 before being able to cross the Oconee River; and

13 WHEREAS, the opportunities for recreation for Georgia citizens at this site are seemingly
14 limitless; and

15 WHEREAS, in light of Coretta Scott King's commitment in her life to history, the
16 environment, economic improvement, and limitless opportunities for all, it is fitting and
17 appropriate that this park be dedicated to her and her memory.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 GEORGIA that the approximately 537 acres of parkland on the Oconee River near Irwinton
20 which is generally known as Ball's Ferry is dedicated as the Coretta Scott King Memorial
21 Park.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Natural Resources is authorized and
23 directed to place and maintain appropriate markers designating the Coretta Scott King
24 Memorial Park.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
26 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Department of Natural Resources and
27 the family of Coretta Scott King.